



FIRE & EMS SERVICE UPDATE



The councils from the City of Milton and City of Edgerton along with the boards of the Towns of Albion, Fulton, Porter, Sumner, Milton, Harmony, Johnstown, and Lima came together November 2 in a historic, ten municipality joint meeting to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that will govern a newly expanded Fire and EMS district covering 220 square miles and 25,000 people in Rock, Dane, and Jefferson Counties. The district includes residential, industrial, and commercial assets worth \$2.5 billion in equalized value. The transition will officially take effect on February 1, 2023.

Services for the City of Milton will continue to run out of the current fire station on W. Madison Avenue. Within the next few years, a new fire station will be constructed on land purchased by the Town of Milton on E. High Street near STH 59, and the existing fire station will be updated or relocated to a new location yet to be determined. Once full integration is complete, full-time staff will increase from 5 to 19. In addition, the integration doubles the paramedic-staffed ambulances available to the 10 municipalities, triples the number of paramedics on duty, and improves 5-minute call times in the new district from 23.9% to 41.8%.

The integrated departments will be renamed. All community members are invited to provide name suggestions, and commission representatives from each of the member communities of the district will vote on the name for the new department.

Over the years, the City of Milton and Town of Milton Joint Fire Commission, the current governing board of Fire/EMS protection to the City of Milton and four townships of Milton, Johnstown, Harmony, and Lima, had hired various consultants and initiated a number of staffing studies. Most recently, the City of Milton partnered with Wisconsin Policy Forum to examine options for a long-term sustainable model to provide Fire/EMS services. All studies came to the same conclusion: integration with other surrounding districts was the best option to deliver sustainable emergency services going forward as well as the most cost-effective to address staffing challenges, capital needs, and increases throughout the area in call volume.

Key Takeaways



The number of full-time, career positions will nearly quadruple.



The department will be renamed.



A new fire station will be built on the east side of the community, and the current station will be updated or relocated.



Response times will be improved for the new district.



This is the most sustainable and cost effective solution to delivering a dramatically improved level of service.

Questions?

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